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Part IV
International cooperation for development

Section 12
Environment

(Programme 10 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001)

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* The present document contains section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

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Section 12
Environment

(Programme 10 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001)

Overview

12.1 The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established by the General Assembly by its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, with the Governing Council of UNEP as its policy-making organ and a secretariat to serve as a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system. The secretariat is headed by an Executive Director who is elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General. The Executive Director is responsible for the administration of the Environment Fund, under the authority and policy guidance of the Governing Council. The extrabudgetary resources of UNEP are administered by the Executive Director in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Environment Fund.

12.2 The overall objective of the programme, the achievement of which is being carried out in coordination with other relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations, as appropriate, is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

12.3 The mandate of UNEP has been confirmed through various legislative measures, both by the General Assembly and the Governing Council of UNEP. Agenda 21 also established the need for an enhanced and strengthened role for UNEP and its Governing Council and indicated action that UNEP should undertake to contribute to its implementation. UNEP is also providing the secretariats to several global and regional conventions that have been established in areas related to UNEP programmatic activities.

12.4 The Governing Council of UNEP at its nineteenth session, in 1997, defined and clarified the role and mandate of UNEP in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 19/2), which was endorsed by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in June 1997. Subsequently, in its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of UNEP, adopted at its fifth special session, the Governing Council took, *inter alia*, the following decisions:

(a) It affirmed that the future reform of UNEP, in the context of the United Nations reform, should be predicated on the following considerations:

(i) The future activities and organizational structure of the secretariat of UNEP should be fully in line with the mandate contained in the Nairobi Declaration;

(ii) Reform should aim at the further enhancement of the role of UNEP as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment;

(iii) The further organizational reform of UNEP, based on the proposals of the Executive Director, must ensure a more rational, efficient and cost-effective functioning of the secretariat of UNEP as a whole;

(b) It identified five areas of concentration: (i) environmental information, assessment and research, including environmental emergency response capacity and strengthening of early warning and assessment functions; (ii) enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development of environmental policy instruments; (iii) freshwater; (iv) technology transfer and industry; and (v) support to Africa;

(c) It requested the Executive Director to develop further his new proposals in the context of the programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001, and to make recommendations thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

12.5 Given the timing of the decisions of the Governing Council at its fifth special session, it was not possible to include the programmatic aspects of the UNEP restructuring in the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the report of the UNEP Governing Council on its fifth special session was also submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. In its resolution 53/187 of 15 December 1998 on the report of the Governing Council of UNEP, the Assembly welcomed that report of the Council and the decisions contained therein, and recognized, in particular, decision SS.V/2.

12.6 The proposals of the Executive Director were submitted to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, in February 1999. By its resolution 20/31 (III) of 4 February 1999, the Council, *inter alia*, approved the programmatic restructuring set out in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001, consisting of 7 subprogrammes and 26 subprogramme elements, which integrates all elements previously contained in the programme activity centres, as established in earlier decisions of the Governing Council, and, as a result, noted the dissolution of the following programme activity centres: dryland ecosystems and desertification control, environmental law and institutions, Global Environment Monitoring System, industry and environment, International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals, International Referral System for Sources of Environmental Information (INFOTERRA), Global Resource Information Database and oceans and coastal areas.

12.7 The proposals of the Executive Director are designed to restructure the Programme and secretariat along functional lines. Programmatically, the restructuring includes a revised subprogramme structure comprising seven subprogrammes: Environmental assessment and early warning; Policy development and law; Policy implementation; Technology, industry and economics; Regional cooperation and representation; Environmental conventions; and Communications and public information. Administratively, the restructuring implies the transfer to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, under section 27G, Administration, Nairobi, of the functions of budget administration, staffing table control, implementation of audit responses and provision of administrative support to the Programme and to the secretariats of the environmental conventions associated with UNEP. In line with this reorganization, the Budget and Fund Management Service of UNEP is to be consolidated under the Division of Administrative Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, with the corresponding transfer of 11 Professional and 25 Local level posts. The other organizational units, which were part of the Budget and Fund Management Service, such as the Programme Management and Coordination Unit and the Internal Oversight and Evaluation Unit are transferred to the Office of the Executive Director. In addition, the functions of regional representation, which previously were part of executive direction and management, have been integrated into the programme of work.

12.8 These proposals are reflected in the present section, as well as in sections 1 and 27G, as relevant.

12.9 The restructuring of the Programme and secretariat along functional lines for the biennium 2000–2001 is a major departure from the traditional form and practice, as it does not directly highlight allocations by major sectoral issues, such as freshwater, oceans, land, biodiversity, forests, health and atmosphere. The new structure does not mean that any of the major environmental issues will receive less attention in the programme planning and implementation, but rather it implies that they will be strategically addressed through appropriate mechanisms.

12.10 The estimated resources of $8,713,900 proposed for the biennium 2000–2001 reflect a decrease of $42,700, or 0.4 per cent, resulting from increases and decreases under various objects of expenditure, including the transfer of resources for travel ($49,600) from this section to section 15 for the travel requirements of the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

12.11 The extrabudgetary resources estimated at $182,709,300 for the biennium 2000–2001, represent 95.05 per cent of the total resources available to this programme. The existing arrangements for intergovernmental review and management of these extrabudgetary funds provide for the Governing Council of UNEP to approve biennial budgets to govern the use of such extrabudgetary resources.

12.12 The estimated percentage distribution of the resources under section 12 for the biennium 2000–2001 would be as follows:

	Regular budget	*Extra-budgetary*
	(percentage)	
A. Policy-making organs	14.7	–
B. Executive direction and management	24.6	8.4
C. Programme of work	60.7	91.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 12.1 **Summary of requirements by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
A. Policy-making organs	1 434.8	1 281.8	–	–	1 281.8	71.7	1 353.5
B. Executive direction and management	3 180.0	4 102.1	(1 955.4)	(47.6)	2 146.7	190.5	2 337.2
C. Programme of work	2 385.5	3 372.7	1 912.7	56.7	5 285.4	487.3	5 772.7
Total	**7 000.3**	**8 756.6**	**(42.7)**	**(0.4)**	**8 713.9**	**749.5**	**9 463.4**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
5 922.7	9 977.8	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	6 857.7
		(b) Substantive activities	
4 636.7	8 039.7	General trust funds	13 978.0
12 693.0	18 423.2	Environment Fund	8 523.6
		(c) Operational projects	
54 612.8	80 000.0	Environment Fund	105 000.0
22 658.7	32 378.1	Technical cooperation trust funds	32 219.6
15 397.3	11 851.7	Counterpart contributions	16 130.4
Total	**115 921.2**	**160 670.5**		**182 709.3**
Total (1) and (2)	**122 921.5**	**169 427.1**		**192 172.7**

Table 12.2 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	5 072.7	6 775.9	23.0	0.3	6 798.9	624.3	7 423.2
Other staff costs	1 314.1	1 148.3	–	–	1 148.3	35.3	1 183.6
Consultants and experts	169.8	204.3	(24.5)	(11.9)	179.8	20.6	200.4
Travel	250.9	292.9	(49.6)	(16.9)	243.3	11.8	255.1
Contractual services	42.0	38.3	–	–	38.3	6.9	45.2
General operating expenses	138.5	217.6	8.4	3.8	226.0	37.9	263.9
Hospitality	3.6	5.8	–	–	5.8	1.1	6.9
Supplies and materials	4.0	53.1	–	–	53.1	9.4	62.5
Furniture and equipment	4.7	20.4	–	–	20.4	2.2	22.6
Total	**7 000.3**	**8 756.6**	**(42.7)**	**(0.4)**	**8 713.9**	**749.5**	**9 463.4**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*2000–2001 estimates*
68 067.7	67 691.5	Posts	81 714.5
1 260.0	2 097.1	Other staff costs	1 067.5
5 197.6	6 483.1	Consultants and experts	7 489.0
7 668.4	8 576.8	Travel	8 111.9
9 235.5	20 486.2	Contractual services	23 113.3
13 086.8	16 630.9	General operating expenses	16 196.7
555.6	1 251.5	Supplies and materials	1 056.8
1 124.8	1 957.5	Furniture and equipment	1 540.4
16.0	–	Alteration and improvement of premises	–
2 739.1	379.7	Grants and contributions	11 574.9
6 969.7	35 116.2	Other expenditures	30 844.4
115 921.2	**160 670.5**		**182 709.3**
122 921.5	**169 427.1**		**192 172.7**

Table 12.3 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: United Nations Environment Programme

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
ASG	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1
D-2	3	3	–	–	7	3	10	6
D-1	1	1	–	–	19	27	20	28
P-5	6	6	–	–	32	46	38	52
P-4/3	10	10	–	–	103	139	113	149
P-2/1	1	1	–	–	30	39	31	40
Total	**22**	**22**	**–**	**–**	**192**	**255**	**214**	**277**
General Service category								
Principal level	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Other level	5	5	–	–	11	11	16	16
Total	**6**	**6**	**–**	**–**	**11**	**11**	**17**	**17**
Other categories								
Local level	11	11	–	–	222	225	233	236
Total	**11**	**11**	**–**	**–**	**222**	**225**	**233**	**236**
Grand total	**39**	**39**	**–**	**–**	**425**	**491**	**464**	**530**

A. Policy-making organs

Table 12.4 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Other staff costs	1 260.9	1 073.4	–	–	1 073.4	32.6	1 106.0
Travel	5.9	–	–	–	–	–	–
Contractual services	32.1	36.8	–	–	36.8	6.9	43.7
General operating expenses	132.0	136.6	–	–	136.6	25.6	162.2
Hospitality	3.6	5.8	–	–	5.8	1.1	6.9
Supplies and materials	0.3	29.2	–	–	29.2	5.5	34.7
Total	**1 434.8**	**1 281.8**	**–**	**–**	**1 281.8**	**71.7**	**1 353.5**

12.13 The Governing Council, consisting of 58 Member States, is the policy-making organ of UNEP. The Council holds its sessions biennially and reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

12.14 In its decision 19/1 B, the Governing Council created a 36-member inter-sessional High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials in Charge of Environment, which meets in Nairobi at least once a year. As this inter-sessional body has assumed some of the duties and responsibilities of the Council, the duration of the latter's regular session has been reduced to five days. The twentieth session of the Council took place in February 1999 and the twenty-first is scheduled for February 2001.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Other staff costs

12.15 An estimated amount of $1,073,400, at maintenance level, would be required as follows: (a) $1,001,900 for temporary assistance for meetings of the twenty-first session of the Council and (b) $71,500 for overtime of staff during that session.

Contractual services

12.16 The estimated amount of $36,800, at maintenance level, relates to contractual translation of UNEP documents that are required urgently and cannot be provided in-house.

General operating expenses and hospitality

12.17 A provision in the amount of $142,400, at maintenance level, would be required as follows: (a) $20,300 for the cost of rental and maintenance of equipment and provision of back-up services for computer equipment; (b) $35,700 for communications, including dispatch of documentation to members of the Council; (c) $20,300 for back-up services for electrical and electronic equipment; (d) $60,300 for miscellaneous services, including the fees for sound technicians and engineers for the operation of simultaneous interpretation equipment; and (e) $5,800 to cover the cost of official functions held by the President of the Council and the Executive Director of UNEP during the session of the Council.

Supplies and materials

12.18 An estimated amount of $29,200, at maintenance level, would be required for printing supplies and materials.

B. Executive direction and management

1. Office of the Executive Director

Table 12.5 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 273.3	3 100.1	(1 779.3)	(57.3)	1 320.8	167.9	1 488.7
Other staff costs	52.1	73.4	(73.4)	(100.0)	–	–	–
Travel	103.8	109.1	(78.1)	(71.5)	31.0	1.5	32.5
General operating expenses	6.5	35.0	(21.2)	(60.5)	13.8	2.6	16.4
Supplies and materials	3.7	10.4	(3.4)	(32.6)	7.0	1.3	8.3
Furniture and equipment	–	10.5	–	–	10.5	2.0	12.5
Total	**2 439.4**	**3 338.5**	**(1 955.4)**	**(58.5)**	**1 383.1**	**175.3**	**1 558.4**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 estimates	Source of funds	2000–2001 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
5 933.7	9 977.8	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	6 857.7
		(b) Substantive activities	
–	–	General trust funds	–
23 694.0	18 423.2	Environment Fund	8 523.6
Total	**29 627.7**	**28 401.0**	**15 381.3**
Total (1) and (2)	**32 067.1**	**31 739.5**	**16 939.7**

Table 12.6 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: Office of the Executive Director

	Established posts		Temporary posts					
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001	1998–1999	2000–2001
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
ASG	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1
D-2	1	–	–	–	3	–	4	–
D-1	–	–	–	–	5	3	5	3
P-5	4	1	–	–	8	3	12	4
P-4/3	3	2	–	–	33	18	36	20
P-2/1	–	–	–	–	6	3	6	3
Total	**9**	**4**	**–**	**–**	**56**	**28**	**65**	**32**
General Service category								
Other level	4	–	–	–	11	–	15	–
Total	**4**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11**	**–**	**15**	**–**
Other categories								
Local level	4	5	–	–	71	43	75	48
Total	**4**	**5**	**–**	**–**	**71**	**43**	**75**	**48**
Grand total	**17**	**9**	**–**	**–**	**138**	**71**	**155**	**80**

12.19 Executive direction and management is composed of the Office of the Executive Director and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. As a result of the restructuring, regional representation has been incorporated into the programme of work, and the responsibility for the administration and management of the Environment Fund has been transferred to the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

12.20 The Executive Director of UNEP has overall responsibility within the United Nations system for providing leadership on environmental policy, assessing the causes and effects of environmental change, identifying emerging issues and catalysing responsive international action. The Executive Director is also responsible for the coordination of environmental activities within the United Nations system and the provision of support to the UNEP Governing Council.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

12.21 The estimated amount of $1,320,800, reflecting a decrease of $1,779,300, would cover the cost of the posts shown in table 12.6. The decrease of $1,779,300 results from the redeployment of one D-2, three P-5, one P-3 and four General Service (Other level) posts to the programme of work in exchange for the redeployment of one Local level post from the programme of work to meet additional requirements of the Office of the Executive Director. The redeployment of the posts to programme of work is proposed as part of the restructuring of the UNEP programme approved by the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

Other staff costs

12.22 A provision of $73,400 was previously approved for general temporary assistance and overtime for the regional offices in New York and Geneva. It is proposed to redeploy this amount to the programme of work for the same purpose.

Travel

12.23 The estimated provision of $31,000, reflecting a decrease of $78,100, relates to the official travel of the Executive Director and the staff of his Office to participate in United Nations meetings and for consultations with Member States and senior United Nations officials. As regards the decrease of $78,100, it is proposed to apply this amount as follows: $49,600 to be transferred to section 1 for the travel requirements of the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and $28,500 to the programme of work for the travel requirements of the regional offices in New York and Geneva.

General operating expenses, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment

12.24 An estimated provision of $31,300, reflecting a decrease of $24,600, would be required as follows: (a) $13,800 for communications ($9,800 for long-distance telephone service, $2,700 for the pouch, and $1,300 for postage); (b) $7,000 for office supplies and materials; and (c) $10,500 for the replacement of personal computers and printers. The decrease of $24,600 represents the provision that was previously approved under these objects of expenditure for the New York and Geneva offices. It is proposed to redeploy this amount to the programme of work.

2. United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

Table 12.7 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Regular budget

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	549.4	527.3	–	–	527.3	5.7	533.0
Other staff costs	1.1	1.5	–	–	1.5	–	1.5
Consultants and experts	75.6	83.8	–	–	83.8	2.6	86.4
Travel	99.9	138.5	–	–	138.5	6.7	145.2
Contractual services	9.9	1.5	–	–	1.5	–	1.5
General operating expenses	–	1.1	–	–	1.1	–	1.1
Furniture and equipment	4.7	9.9	–	–	9.9	0.2	10.1
Total	**740.6**	**763.6**	**–**	**–**	**763.6**	**15.2**	**778.8**

Table 12.8 **Post requirements**

Organizational unit: Secretariat of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Total	**1**	**1**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**
General Service category								
Principal level	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Other level	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Total	**2**	**2**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**2**	**2**
Grand total	**3**	**3**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**3**	**3**

12.25 The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955 and was entrusted with the compilation and distribution of scientific data on the impact of ionizing radiation on man and the environment. Annual resolutions of the Assembly reflect the concern of Member States regarding radiation exposure and its effects and the need for the collection, analysis and interpretation of data carried out by the Committee. In its resolution 53/44 of 3 December 1998, the Assembly decided to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee and requested it to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

12.26 The secretariat of the Committee, located in Vienna, organizes and services the annual sessions of the Committee and is responsible for the preparation of the scientific documents requested by the Committee for review and discussion at its sessions. Those documents, which deal with all aspects of radiation exposure and its biological effects, are drafted by the Secretary of the Committee with assistance from consultants.

12.27 The secretariat prepares reports to the General Assembly on the sources and effects of ionizing radiation on man and the environment, representing the latest assessments of the Committee. The compilation of data and preparation of the Committee's report extends over several years. Each year, draft documentation is submitted to the Committee at its annual sessions, where it serves as the basis for technical discussions. In May 2000, the Committee is expected to undertake the final review of the UNSCEAR 2000 Report, which will subsequently be published and made available to the scientific community. During the biennium 2000–2001, the secretariat of the Committee will continue to work on the subjects that correspond generally to the topics of the scientific annexes to the *UNSCEAR 2000 Report*, such as exposure from natural radiation sources, exposure from man-made sources of radiation, medical radiation exposure, occupational radiation exposure, dose assessment methodologies, DNA repair and metagenesis, epidemiological evaluation of radiation-induced cancer, hereditary effects of radiation, combined effects of radiation and other agents, biological effects at low radiation doses and exposure to and effects of the Chernobyl accident.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

12.28 The estimated amount of $527,300, at maintenance level, relates to the staffing requirements of the secretariat as shown in table 12.8.

Other staff costs

12.29 A provision in the amount of $1,500, at maintenance level, would cover the cost of overtime of staff during peak periods of document preparation.

Consultants and experts

12.30 An estimated amount of $83,800, at maintenance level, would be required to provide for specialized consultancy services for the preparation of studies and reports to be presented to the annual sessions of the Committee and for the publication of its report.

Travel

12.31 The amount of $138,500, at maintenance level, relates to the cost of travel as follows: (a) $123,400 for the participation of 21 representatives in the sessions of the Committee and (b) $15,100 for the participation of the Secretary of the Committee in scientific meetings.

Contractual services, general operating expenses and furniture and equipment

12.32 An estimated amount of $12,500, at maintenance level, would be required as follows: (a) $1,500 for binding scientific publications and journals; (b) $1,100 for the Committee's share of the maintenance and support of the LAN technical infrastructure (including central servers) necessary for the support of central management services; and (c) $9,900 for the replacement of electronic equipment and acquisition of software.

C. Programme of work

Table 12.9 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1996–1997 expenditures*	*1998–1999 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2000–2001 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 250.0	3 148.5	1 802.3	57.2	4 950.8	450.7	5 401.5
Other staff costs	–	–	73.4	–	73.4	2.7	76.1
Consultants and experts	94.2	120.5	(24.5)	(20.3)	96.0	18.0	114.0
Travel	41.3	45.3	28.5	62.9	73.8	3.6	77.4
General operating expenses	–	44.9	29.6	65.9	74.5	9.7	84.2
Supplies and materials	–	13.5	3.4	25.1	16.9	2.6	19.5
Total	**2 385.5**	**3 372.7**	**1 912.7**	**56.7**	**5 285.4**	**487.3**	**5 772.7**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	–	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	–
		(b) Substantive activities	
4 636.7	8 039.7	General trust funds	13 978.0
		(c) Operational projects	
54 612.8	80 000.0	Environment Fund	105 000.0
–	–	Environment Fund Programme Reserve	–
–	–	Programme supplement	–
		Technical cooperation trust funds	
		Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen Pan-European Environmental Cooperation	
476.6	339.0		339.0
		Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the UNEP net Implementation Centre	
–	1 943.6		2 260.0
		Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21	
572.2	–		–
		Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries	
107.7	90.4		–
		Trust Fund to Assist the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in the Use of Geographic Information Systems in Agricultural Research Management	
539.6	339.0		452.0

1996–1997 expenditures	1998–1999 estimates	Source of funds	2000–2001 estimates
		Trust Fund in Support of the Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia	
150.9	271.2	and the Pacific	339.0
		Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries	
2 755.9	1 693.4	in Africa	2 000.1
		Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-	
–	727.7	based Activities	519.8
		Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of UNEP's Implementation of Enabling Pioneering Environmental	
–	454.5	Projects	454.5
		Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Meetings of the UNEP High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials in Charge	
82.2	194.6	of Environment	113.0
		Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and	
14.6	168.4	Machinery	–
		Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Production of an Information Video Booklet on Working Safely with Hydrocarbons in Domestic and Small Scale Commercial	
–	282.0	Refrigeration	–
		Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of Meetings of Subcommittees or Working Groups on Programmatic and	
–	798.9	Administrative Reform of UNEP	–
		Trust Fund for the Organization of a Technology Transfer Workshop on the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for French-	
108.6	–	Speaking African Countries	–
		Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the	
8 090.7	9 040.0	Multilateral Fund Activities	12 040.0
		Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing	
311.7	519.8	Countries	519.8
		INFOTERRA Technical	
–	79.1	Cooperation Trust Fund	90.4

	1996–1997 expenditures	*1998–1999 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*2000–2001 estimates*
	5 248.6	5 000.0	Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan	5 000.0
	113.0	678.0	Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Activities on Environmental Issues	678.0
	–	3 333.3	Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Cleaner Production Investments in Developing Countries	3 333.3
	–	375.2	Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by the Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq	–
	163.0	–	Trust Fund to Support National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping in Kenya	–
	444.4	271.2	Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management	–
	59.6	3.1	Trust Fund to Promote Managerial Innovation and Excellence	–
	75.6	542.4	Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol	–
	3 343.8	5 233.3	Trust Funds for Provision of Professional and Junior Professional Officers	4 080.7
	15 397.3	11 851.7	Counterpart contributions	16 130.4
Total	**97 305.5**	**132 269.5**		**167 328.0**
Total (1) and (2)	**99 691.0**	**135 642.2**		**173 100.7**

Table 12.10 **Post requirements**

Programme of work

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*	*1998–1999*	*2000–2001*
Professional category and above								
D-2	2	3	–	–	4	3	6	6
D-1	–	–	–	–	14	24	14	24
P-5	2	5	–	–	24	43	26	48
P-4/3	7	8	–	–	70	121	77	129
P-2/1	1	1	–	–	24	36	25	37
Total	**12**	**17**	**–**	**–**	**136**	**227**	**148**	**244**
General Service category								
Other level	–	4	–	–	–	11	–	15
Total	**–**	**4**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11**	**–**	**15**
Other categories								
Local level	7	6	–	–	151	182	158	188
Total	**7**	**6**	**–**	**–**	**151**	**182**	**158**	**188**
Grand total	**19**	**27**	**–**	**–**	**287**	**420**	**306**	**447**

12.33 At its twentieth session, in February 1999, the Governing Council approved the proposals of the Executive Director regarding the restructuring of the Programme and secretariat along functional lines. As a result, the programme of work now includes seven subprogrammes as follows: Environmental assessment and early warning; Policy development and law; Policy implementation; Technology, industry and economics; Regional cooperation and representation; Environmental conventions; and Communications and public information.

12.34 The activities for the biennium 2000–2001 are presented at a high level of aggregation based on relevant extracts from the programme of work of UNEP for 2000–2001, which is financed at 96.8 per cent through extrabudgetary and 3.2 per cent through the regular budget of the United Nations. The distribution of the resource requirements is also shown only in aggregate at the level of the programme of work as a whole. This is a return to the way the UNEP programme budget was presented before the biennium 1998–1999. The extrabudgetary resources estimated at $167,328,000 exclude the funding for conventions, protocols, regional seas programmes, the multilateral funds and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Expected accomplishments

12.35 During the biennium 2000–2001, UNEP expects to accomplish the following: maintenance of priority environmental issues and emerging problems at the forefront of the international community agenda; development of policies on major environmental issues, acceleration of intergovernmental policy consensus and responses, and improvement of coherence among relevant United Nations policies and actions; assistance in environmentally sound decision-making and support to the corresponding capacity-building; mobilization and coordination of international response to environmental emergencies; development and strengthening of cooperative regional and subregional frameworks as effective mechanisms for addressing global environmental problems; support to the development of new international conventions and

agreements; and development of proactive communications and media strategies to allow UNEP to shape the agenda of public debate and bring the attention of the world to emerging environmental issues.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

12.36 The estimated amount of $4,950,800, reflecting growth of $1,802,300, would cover the cost of the posts shown in table 12.10. The distribution of these posts will be as follows: (a) three D-2, two P-5, four P-4, one P-3, one P-2 and six Local level posts based in Nairobi; (b) two P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and two General Service posts in the New York office; and (c) one P-5, one P-4 and two General Service posts in Geneva. The increase of $1,802,300 is the net result of the proposed redeployment to the programme of work of the posts of the New York and Geneva offices which were previously shown under executive direction and management, and the redeployment to executive direction and management of one Local level post.

Other staff costs

12.37 An estimated amount of $73,400, at the maintenance level, would be required as follows: (a) $39,000 for general temporary assistance and $8,100 for overtime of staff in the New York regional office; and (b) $21,800 for general temporary assistance and $4,500 for overtime of staff in the Geneva regional office. Previously, the same amount of $73,400 was appropriated under executive direction and management. It is now proposed to redeploy this amount to the programme of work.

Consultants

12.38 An estimated amount of $96,000, reflecting a decrease of $24,500, would relate to consultancy services to undertake evaluations of performance indicators and regional delivery arrangements. The decrease of $24,500 reflects the pattern of recent past expenditure.

Travel

12.39 An estimated amount of $73,800, reflecting an increase of $28,500, would be required for travel of staff as follows: (a) $45,300 for the staff in Nairobi to participate in the sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, inter-agency meetings and other substantive meetings; (b) $16,750 for the staff in New York for consultations and participation in the work of the Governing Council; and (c) $11,750 for travel of staff in Geneva for consultations and participation in the work of the Governing Council. The increase of $28,500 represents the requirements of the regional offices in New York and Geneva transferred from the executive direction and management area, as indicated in paragraph 12.23.

General operating expenses

12.40 An estimated amount of $74,500, reflecting an increase of $29,600, would be required as follows: (a) $8,400 for maintenance of the computer equipment of New York based staff; (b) $44,900 would cover the cost of long distance calls ($31,600), pouches ($8,200) and postage ($5,100) at the Nairobi headquarters; (c) $15,400 would cover the cost of long distance calls ($10,000), pouches ($3,400) and postage ($2,000) of the New York office; and (d) $5,800 would cover the cost of long-distance calls ($3,900), pouches ($1,300) and postage ($600) of the Geneva office. The increase of $29,600 includes $21,200 transferred from executive direction and management for the New York and Geneva offices and $8,400 related to additional requirements for rental and maintenance of equipment in New York.

Supplies and materials

12.41 An estimated amount of $16,900, reflecting an increase of $3,400, would be required to cover the cost of office supplies in Nairobi ($13,300), New York ($1,800) and Geneva ($1,800). The increase of $3,400 represents the requirements of the New York and Geneva offices which were previously shown under executive direction and management.

Subprogramme 1
Environmental assessment and early warning

12.42 The overall goal of this subprogramme is to keep under review the state of the global environment, identify and provide early warning of emerging issues and help set priorities for international, regional and national environmental action. In collaboration with appropriate United Nations and external partners, the subprogramme will alert the world to emerging problems by initiating periodic assessments of priority environmental issues, strengthening linkages to global and national environmental observation programmes and helping to provide authoritative information for policy formulation and implementation. It will stimulate Governments and the international community to take action on environmental issues by: promoting availability of and enhancing access to relevant scientific information needed by decision makers to better protect and enhance the environment; assessing environmental conditions and threats in order to alert policy makers and facilitate the development of alternative impact reduction strategies; devising strategies and contributing to early warning to better cope with emerging or recently recognized environmental threats; and identifying emerging issues.

Outputs

12.43 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Facilitation and cooperation in scientifically sound, policy-relevant environmental assessments to support policy-setting, decision-making and planning of action at global, regional and national levels, through:

(i) Integrated global assessment and reporting;

(ii) An international cooperative assessment network, framework and process;

(iii) Sectoral/issue-oriented assessment and reporting;

(iv) Subregional and regional assessment and reporting;

(v) Harmonization of international assessments;

(b) Maintenance of and support to the decentralized network of Global Resource Information Database (GRID) centres and enhancing the linkages between the network and the scientific community and policy makers at regional and global levels in support of environmental assessment and early warning of emerging issues;

(c) Undertaking of analyses, integration and visualization of environmental data sets from various sources to generate a range of value-added information packages that will serve as input into assessments, state of environment reporting, early warning systems and rapid response to environmental emergencies;

(d) Facilitation of access to and dissemination of environmental data and information to support policy and advisory services in key environmental and sustainable development areas by UNEP and other United Nations and international agencies, Governments, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

(e) Provision of up-to-date and relevant information on emerging regional and global issues and potential environmental threats likely to lead to potential conflicts, critical "hot spots" or emergency situations, as a basis for formulating potential strategic and collaborative responses in a timely manner;

(f) Development of cooperative agreements on regional strategies to generate, use and apply environmental and natural resource data and information, and to mobilize regional network data and information resources for assessment and management of environmental issues at the national and regional levels;

(g) Provision of technical assistance to national and international governmental organizations to catalyse the development of data and information management capacity and the production and use of national, subregional and regional data sets;

(h) Promotion of targeted scientific research on key environmental issues to improve policy formulation and decision-making for sustainable development;

(i) Provision of advisory services to Governments and undertaking of capacity-building activities to assist Governments in providing the public with access to wide-ranging and authoritative information on environmental issues (INFOTERRA);

(j) Assistance to Governments in maximizing consultation and participation by interested stakeholders in the development of environmental policy;

(k) Provision to Governments of the means to service the production, dissemination and utilization of assessments of the human and natural environment as a tool for policy development and implementation.

Subprogramme 2
Policy development and law

12.44 Experience with policy development since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has been mixed. Scientific research on the state of the environment continues to show increasing environmental degradation resulting from inadequacies and gaps in environmental policies and policy instruments. The scientific analysis and assessment of existing and emerging environmental issues, and related socio-economic driving forces and implications, should form the basis for the further development of policy responses. UNEP, as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, identifies major and emerging environmental issues, develops policy positions and options on them, catalyses intergovernmental policy consensus and responses, and promotes coherence among relevant United Nations policies and actions.

12.45 The focus of this subprogramme during the biennium 2000–2001 will be: to analyse, review and develop environment-related (sectoral and cross-sectoral) policies within the context of sustainable development; to develop new and strengthen existing legal, economic and other policy instruments, as well as institutional frameworks; to improve environmental policy coordination and policy information exchange within the United Nations system and, as appropriate, outside the United Nations system; to promote the involvement of major groups in policy dialogue; and to seek increased contributions to the Environment Fund and UNEP trust funds by, *inter alia*, making resource mobilization in UNEP a more systematic and focused activity.

Outputs

12.46 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Promotion of the development of policies and strategies at the global, regional and national levels that respond effectively to existing or emerging environmental issues within the context of sustainable development;

(b) Strengthening of partnerships and involvement of major groups, in particular the scientific community, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in policy development and advocacy to improve environmental management and promote sustainable development;

(c) Development and articulation of UNEP policy positions and responses on major environmental and sustainable development issues and events;

(d) Assistance to Governments in the development of coherent and effective legal regimes at the global, regional and national levels that address major environmental issues in the context of sustainable development;

(e) In cooperation with subprogramme 3, Policy implementation, strengthening of the capacity of Governments to analyse, develop and implement global, regional and national policies and policy instruments, as well as to evaluate their adequacy and effectiveness;

(f) Support to subprogramme 4, Technology, industry and economics, in the development and application of economic, trade and financial instruments for improved integration of environment and development policies and broader compliance with environmental requirements;

(g) Promotion of United Nations system-wide cooperation and coordination in the coherent development and implementation of the environmental policy aspects of sustainable development;

(h) Through information exchange with donors, regional groups, national committees, Governments and the corporate sector, ensuring that priorities of Governments are met by the UNEP programme of work and individual projects; and organization of innovative fund raising from previously inadequately tapped sources, such as the private sector.

Subprogramme 3
Policy implementation

12.47 UNEP is a catalytic and, selectively, an implementing body within the United Nations system. Calls by Governments for the strengthening and revitalization of UNEP since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, however, have led to an enhancement of the organization's role in policy implementation culminating in the establishment of this new subprogramme. This evolution of the mandate of UNEP requires the organization to progressively build and consolidate the necessary capacity for effective policy implementation. With various UNEP subprogrammes engaged in policy implementation activities, there is a need for a focal point within the organization to coordinate, support and ultimately assume responsibility for this work. Accordingly, the focus of this subprogramme will be to: support the implementation activities (e.g., advisory services, pilot projects, education/training and other capacity-building support) undertaken by other subprogrammes; undertake implementation activities that do not fall within the realm of any specific subprogramme or that involve two or more subprogrammes; obtain regular feedback from a monitoring and evaluation process, which might improve future policy development/implementation; and mobilize and coordinate international response to environmental emergencies.

Outputs

12.48 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Provision of advisory, education, training and other capacity-building services to Governments on technical and institutional issues not eligible for GEF funding, in environmental policy implementation, including environmental management;

(b) Development and implementation, with partners (in particular with GEF), of pilot activities with potential demonstrative value in terms of a particular environmental policy or policy implementation strategy;

(c) Liaison with, support to and general coordination of technical cooperation activities of other subprogrammes;

(d) Strengthening of mechanisms and networks, both within and outside the United Nations system, for mobilizing and coordinating responses to environmental emergencies;

(e) Assistance to subregions and countries in developing emergency response capacity and in responding to specific emergencies.

Subprogramme 4
Technology, industry and economics

12.49 The current use and development of technologies, production processes and products, as well as current urbanization patterns result in the inefficient use of natural resources, particularly energy and water, as well as in high levels of air and water pollution, soil contamination and negative impacts on human health and well-being. In particular, persistent and toxic bio-accumulative chemicals are contaminating various media and the food chains. Moreover, current economic tools and systems are not designed to integrate environmental costs. There is, therefore, a need to reorient production and consumption patterns towards cleaner, safer and environmentally sound technologies, products and services that will use less water and energy, prevent all forms of pollution and reduce risks to humans and the environment.

12.50 The focus of the subprogramme is to encourage decision makers in national Governments, local authorities and industry to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices that are cleaner and safer, make efficient use of natural resources, ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals, incorporate environmental costs and reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment.

12.51 In this context, the subprogramme will promote the development, use and transfer of policies of cleaner, safer and environmentally sound technologies, of economic instruments and of managerial practices and other tools that will assist in environmentally sound decision-making and in the building of corresponding capacities. It will also assist in the preparation of corresponding international agreements and guidelines and in particular, the convention on persistent organic pollutants.

Outputs

12.52 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Improvement of the understanding of the needs and priorities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for information on environmentally sound technologies in the fields of freshwater and urban management;

(b) Continuation of the strengthening of the UNEP knowledge base and information system with high-quality and reliable information on environmentally sound technologies for freshwater and urban management, and making that information accessible through appropriate means;

(c) Identification of barriers and impediments to the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies for freshwater and urban management, and ways of overcoming them;

(d) Strengthening and improvement of the capacity in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to adopt and use environmentally sound technologies for freshwater and urban management;

(e) Improvement of worldwide awareness and understanding of cleaner and safer production issues, and promotion of the use of related management tools and technologies leading to efficient use of natural resources and pollution prevention;

(f) Support to and catalysation of national, subregional and regional cleaner production centres, and expansion of networks of government and industry sector experts to provide ongoing input and advice;

(g) Raising the awareness of Governments, international organizations, industry, business and public bodies concerning sustainable consumption patterns;

(h) Ensuring the operation of the interim secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, jointly with FAO;

(i) Provision of support to the negotiations on a legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants, including the holding of a meeting of the conference of the plenipotentiaries;

(j) Promotion of the early reduction and elimination of releases of persistent organic pollutants into the environment through information exchange and capacity-building programmes;

(k) Promotion of the protection of human health and the environment from the adverse effects of toxic chemicals at the national, subregional, and regional levels through capacity-building and information exchange programmes;

(l) Provision to policy makers in Governments and industry of relevant, practical and timely information and improvement of their skills so that they can make better, more informed decisions concerning energy policies, practices, and investments;

(m) Enhancement of the capacities, in particular of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to integrate environmental considerations in development and decision-making, through:

(i) Promotion of the use and application of methodologies and techniques for the valuation of environmental and natural resources;

(ii) Enhancement of integration of environmental and social dimensions into the national income accounting framework;

(iii) Development of a framework for a national environmental impact assessment system that emphasizes strategic use and its linkages with other assessment and incentive tools;

(n) Improvement of understanding of the environmental impact of world trade and trade liberalization, with a view to designing and implementing policies for integrating environmental considerations in trade policies;

(o) Enhancement of understanding of trade and environment policies with regard to UNEP-administered conventions;

(p) Improvement of the awareness, understanding and integration of environmental considerations into the internal and external operations of financial services institutions.

Subprogramme 5
Regional cooperation and representation

12.53 Environmental problems differ from region to region. Global environmental policies and programmes have to take regional needs and priorities into account in order to be successful. Regional cooperation increases the delivery and impact of global programmes. In order to facilitate enhanced regional delivery, a Nairobi-based coordination office has been established. This office will be responsible for promoting regional policy integration, coordinating programme planning and providing services to the regional offices, as appropriate, to facilitate enhanced regional delivery.

12.54 In response to geographically differentiated environmental concerns and interests, groups of countries have established cooperative regional and subregional frameworks. These provide effective mechanisms for addressing global environmental problems and the implementation of global environmental agreements, as well as for tackling specific problems common to participating States. UNEP will promote, support and work with these frameworks in implementing its programme. Governments in the regions need to be provided with policy advice on how to tackle global environmental problems. Where appropriate, solutions have to be demonstrated and other forms of technical assistance rendered, in particular to ministries of

environment. Awareness-raising, involving the private sector, major groups and local authorities in tackling global environmental problems, and mobilizing the necessary resources for this work, are essential for the success of the UNEP programme in the regions. Regional offices have a major role to play in this respect.

Outputs

12.55 During the biennium 2000–2001 the following outputs will be delivered by the coordination office at UNEP headquarters:

(a) Advancement of the UNEP regional environmental agenda and ensuring enhanced regional delivery through the coordination of the conceptualization, planning and coherent implementation of UNEP programmes and activities in the regions;

(b) Creation and maintenance of a dynamic interface with the six regional offices in order to help manage the wide range of regional priorities with greater efficiency and flexibility;

(c) Coordination of the strengthening and restructuring of regional activities to ensure their greater integration;

(d) Balance and harmonization of global priorities with regional ones so as to ensure that regional perspectives are adequately reflected in the global policy and programmes of work of UNEP and that UNEP priorities become part of regional environmental policies and action;

(e) Ensuring the effective and timely two-way flow of information between headquarters and the regions and vice versa.

12.56 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered by the regional offices:

(a) Gathering of relevant information and data and bringing regional perspectives to the development of UNEP policy and programmes;

(b) Promotion of UNEP global policies in the region and enlistment of support for them at all levels;

(c) Activities to implement and complement relevant parts of the UNEP global programmes through initiating, coordinating and catalysing regional and subregional cooperation and action in response to environmental problems and emergencies;

(d) Assistance in the development of policies and programmes on global and regional environmental issues among and within Governments in the region;

(e) Provision of advisory services to help Governments translate global commitments into national action for the protection and enhancement of the environment (except the New York office);

(f) Raising of public awareness of environmental problems and creating a constituency for environmental action.

Subprogramme 6
Environmental conventions

12.57 Global environmental issues, namely, the loss of biological diversity, climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, deforestation and unsustainable use of forests, desertification and land degradation, marine environment and resource degradation, freshwater degradation and the accumulation of persistent organic pollutants and hazardous wastes, are interlinked through complex physical, chemical and biological processes, as well as by the same forces behind these global environmental changes (population growth, increasing consumption of resources and choice of unsound technologies). These problems need to be addressed in an integrated manner, building on the understanding of these linkages in decision-making. There must also be an explicit recognition of the synergies and trade-offs among the policies and actions

taken within the frameworks of global and regional environmental conventions and agreements that are needed in order to respond in an effective and integrated manner to these global environmental problems.

12.58 This subprogramme will therefore promote the development of complementary policies and programmatic approaches among the work programmes of related global and regional environmental conventions and processes; support the development of new international conventions and agreements, including protocols to existing conventions and agreements; and coordinate the provision of UNEP programmatic support to the implementation of the work programmes of conventions and related international agreements and processes, particularly where programmatic interlinkages exist.

Outputs

12.59 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Development of coherent programmatic interlinkages among international conventions and processes and prevention of the fragmentation of international environmental policy-making;

(b) Reinforcement of the implementation of the work programmes of conventions, particularly in those areas and issues where strong interlinkages exist with the UNEP programme of work, such as trade and environment, tourism and assessment, among others;

(c) Promotion of support by the United Nations and other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society to the work programmes of conventions;

(d) Enhancement of the implementation of decisions of the conferences of parties in which UNEP is expected to follow up, in particular those funded by GEF;

(e) Increased dissemination of information on the status and implementation of global environmental conventions;

(f) Provision of substantive support to the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

Subprogramme 7
Communications and public information

12.60 Public awareness is crucial in promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of people to address environmental issues. Communicating the ideas and position of UNEP on important and relevant issues is critical to elevating the organization's role in resolving the major environmental problems. In partnership with the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system or outside, this subprogramme raises awareness of environmental issues and informs Governments, civil society, the media, interest groups and communities about the work of UNEP. By producing and distributing publications, broadcast material, visual displays, publicity campaigns and other special events, the aim of the subprogramme is to promote UNEP, as well as encourage and educate people to live sustainably by actively improving quality of life while caring for the earth. The subprogramme will develop proactive communications and media strategies to allow UNEP to shape the agenda of public debate and bring the attention of the world to emerging environmental issues. It will enhance public access to UNEP programmes and present UNEP as a dynamic organization and a unique source of authoritative information that has a real impact on the global environment. The creation of a Spokesman's Office will help ensure that the position of UNEP on issues of concern is accurately reflected in the world's media. Another new unit on information on the Internet Web sites will facilitate the communication of the message of UNEP and efficient use of rapidly developing electronic forms of information.

Outputs

12.61 During the biennium 2000–2001, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Provision of clarifications on the official position of UNEP on major environmental problems and newsworthy events on behalf of the Executive Director;

(b) Reflection and presentation of a timely, accurate, appropriate image of UNEP through systematic dissemination of targeted information on the environmental agenda and initiatives to enlist audience support through the media, and assistance in mobilizing adequate international response to major emerging environmental issues;

(c) Harmonization of the image of UNEP on Internet Web sites and facilitation of access and delivery of information on UNEP and the environment to Internet users and other selected clients and partners (Web journalism);

(d) Promotion of UNEP and UNEP products and services on the Internet, including marketing and sales of selected UNEP products;

(e) Promotion of greater environmental awareness through specific activities and events, and facilitation of effective cooperation with and among selected sectors of society and actors involved in the implementation of the international environmental agenda;

(f) Efficient dissemination of information on environmental issues and UNEP activities through publications;

(g) Coordination and provision of query-response services (Library and Documentation Centre).

Table 12.11 **Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/51/810)	
The senior management of UNEP needs, as a matter of urgency, to clarify with its stakeholders its role and function following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (para. 137).	Clarification of the role and mandate of UNEP is the prerogative and responsibility of its Governing Council. Governments have defined and clarified the refocused role and mandate of UNEP by adopting the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP at the nineteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, in June 1997.
UNEP should translate this clarified role into a clear plan of action for the next five years. The plan should contain measurable, or at least observable, goals and basic indicators of progress applicable to each programme and operational unit. Managers at all levels should then use them in managing their work (para. 138).	The major elements of the plan of action were considered by the Governing Council at its fifth special session, in Nairobi in May 1998 on the basis of the outcome of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials in Charge of Environment, the special session of the General Assembly and the policy guidelines presented by the Executive Director. The introduction of results management and performance indicators for the UNEP programme of work for 1996–1997 has been extended to the 1998–1999 work programme. Also, the 2000–2001 work programme is results-oriented and contains objectives, results and measurable performance indicators. Managers are guided in their work by semi-annual programme implementation reports, which give an overview of programme delivery as compared to the use of resources over the same time period.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Immediate steps should be taken to translate the Programme's global role as a catalyst, coordinator and stimulator of environmental action into one single programme budget document. Simultaneously, urgent action is needed to put in place a system of programme oversight with the authority necessary to ensure the coordination and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive programme of work. The UNEP monitoring and evaluation system should collect essential data on performance and provide feedback to managers at all levels in a timely fashion so as to provide guidance in the allocation of resources and to permit provision of incentives to good performers. The responsible units should report directly to the Executive Director (para. 139).	Budgets for conventions and trust funds, including GEF, are developed and approved independently and according to different schedules by their respective legislative bodies. The implementation of this recommendation will therefore be carried out with their approval. A composite budget document and programme of work for 1998–1999 was presented to and approved by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session. For the Environment Fund the same document, including management and administrative support costs and the programme of work for 2000–2001, was presented to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, in February 1999. The Executive Director presented to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, the completed new organizational structure, building upon his proposal, made at the fifth special session of the Governing Council in May 1998. Six divisions and one branch based on functions rather than sectoral subjects will report directly to the Deputy Executive Director. He will exercise oversight and authority, ensuring coordination and integration. As part of the new organizational chart, the Evaluation Unit was separated from the planning and monitoring functions and now reports directly to the Executive Director. Feedback is provided to managers through the Management Board. The Programme Coordination and Management Unit, established in August 1998 as a successor to the Corporate Planning and Accountability Service, monitors programme performance and submits semi-annual programme implementation reports to management as guidance in the allocation of resources. The Unit reports directly to the Deputy Executive Director, who supervises programme delivery.
The Environmental Economics Unit needs to be strengthened (para. 140).	The economics and trade subprogrammes have been fully integrated. To maximize scarce resources, ensure a critical mass of human resources and foster necessary closer collaboration with WTO, UNCTAD, ECE and OECD, the Unit has been consolidated in Geneva. The proposed budget for 2000–2001 contains increased funding for the economics and trade programme element.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The relationship between the secretariats of the environmental conventions and UNEP should be revisited. Fulfilling its Agenda 21 mandate for coordinating the work of the secretariats may give UNEP a tool for achieving its larger goals. If that is a niche that UNEP decides to occupy, then it will need to equip itself to do so (para. 141).	UNEP has established a Division of Environmental Conventions. The objectives of the conventions are: (a) to promote, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, development of coherent interlinkages among international conventions and processes and prevention of fragmentation of international environmental policy-making; (b) to enhance, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, the linkages among the various scientific and information monitoring processes that underpin environmental conventions and relevant international agreements in order to provide a bridge between science and information and policy; and (c) to serve as a link between UNEP and the conventions and related international processes to facilitate and channel coordinated substantive support of environmental conventions and processes by various UNEP programme areas such as atmosphere, biodiversity, chemicals, land and water to ensure that the conventions and processes are implemented effectively in accordance with their provisions and the decisions of their conferences of parties.
Management should assess the organizational structure with a view to reducing its top-heaviness, ensuring greater congruence with the programme of work; delineating clearly the functions and responsibilities of each unit, ensuring that those functions are mutually supportive of each other; avoiding a too-thin distribution of resources; and reflecting clear lines of authority (para. 142).	The Executive Director presented to the Governing Council at its fifth special session a new organizational structure for UNEP. Six divisions and one branch based on functions rather than subject areas will report to the Executive Director through the Deputy Executive Director. He will exercise oversight and authority, ensuring integration. The congruence between the new organizational structure and the programme of work will be completed for 2000–2001. However, the programme of work for 1999 will be implemented as approved by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, with the new organizational structure. To reduce the top-heaviness of UNEP, the new Executive Director has downgraded the posts of regional directors from D-2 to D-1.
The work of the numerous committees established to provide collective guidance on programmatic and administrative matters should be streamlined, the number of committees should be reduced and their respective responsibilities should be well-delineated (para. 143).	The Management Board, comprising senior officials, serves as the principal mechanism for evolving and providing collective guidance on programmatic and administrative matters. It meets regularly under the chairmanship of the Executive Director. The number of other functional committees has been drastically reduced.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Managerial and administrative reform within UNEP requires a firm hand at the helm. If the Executive Director must travel much of the time, there has to be a second in command in charge at UNEP headquarters, with the authority and determination to put changes into effect (para. 144).	The Executive Director has delegated full authority to the Deputy Executive Director to take necessary decisions when the Executive Director is away from Nairobi. Additionally, the Deputy Executive Director has been designated Reform Coordinator.
UNEP may wish to have an independent evaluation office with a reporting relationship and status vis-à-vis its Governing Council that is analogous to that of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the General Assembly (para. 145).	With the introduction of the new organizational structure, the Evaluation and Oversight Unit reports directly to the Executive Director. The Evaluation and Oversight Unit submits each year a UNEP evaluation report to members of the Governing Council.
Evaluation resources are very scarce and should be used for strategic purposes, meeting accountability needs while clarifying relevant issues (para. 146).	The Evaluation and Oversight Unit prepares annually a UNEP evaluation report. Managers will continue to be requested to prepare implementation plans to ensure follow-up of evaluation recommendations contained in that report. The Evaluation and Oversight Unit reviews these plans every six months and draws to the attention of the Management Board necessary corrective action. In 1996, for the first time, a management response was prepared to the evaluation report, and management committed itself to implementing the recommendations therein, thus bringing the commitment to the policy level. The Management Board reviews systematically all evaluation recommendations to assess the necessity of any structural or systemic change. The management response to the 1997 evaluation report was distributed to the Governing Council at its twentieth session as an information document. As a test case, an ex-post environmental impact evaluation of the long-standing Mediterranean Action Plan has been undertaken to provide evidence of the impact on the environment of a UNEP programme. This report was sent to the Office of Internal Oversight Services in connection with the update to the triennial review on 21 January 1998.
UNEP should review its practice of turning all activities into projects (para. 147).	The secretariat has been developing new approaches to programme implementation. The extent to which new approaches can be implemented for internal programme implementation is dependent upon the outcome of the ongoing reforms and the compatibility of these new approaches with the rules and regulations governing the fund of UNEP.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The position of UNEP in GEF appears minimal, and therefore, as part of the 1997 review by the General Assembly of follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, UNEP should urge consideration of a revised relationship among the implementing agencies of GEF (para. 148).	As a result of the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Executive Director presented the new profile of UNEP in GEF at the first GEF Assembly, held in New Delhi in April 1998. The new profile was endorsed by the Governing Council in its decision SS.V/6 of 22 May 1998. In that decision the Governing Council welcomed the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening the role of UNEP in the GEF. The Governing Council also requested the Executive Director to strengthen the role of UNEP in the GEF cross-cutting area of land degradation. To strengthen inter-agency collaboration, a memorandum of understanding between UNEP and UNDP on joint collaboration in the cross-cutting area of land degradation was signed in November 1998. The third meeting of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials in Charge of Environment, held in Buenos Aires on 10 November 1998, welcomed also the progress made by UNEP in GEF, as evidenced by the increase of its work programme from $21 million during the pilot phase to $124 million at the end of 1998, corresponding to more than 96 projects. The Ministers requested the Executive Director to present to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, in February 1999, a draft action plan on complementarity and additionality of UNEP core activities with its GEF interventions aimed at further clarifying the role of UNEP in GEF.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The issue of the Mercure telecommunications facility should be resolved as a matter of urgency. UNEP and the United Nations Secretariat should resolve any outstanding issues of compatibility between the United Nations and UNEP systems and make recommendations to the parties and legislative bodies concerned as to the steps to be taken if the system cannot be put into full and cost-effective operation in the near future (para. 149).	With the signing of an agreement between the Government of Kenya and UNEP in April 1998, operational data services were implemented over the Mercure system in Nairobi. Fourteen other Mercure sites were rendered operational by June 1998. Services at UNEP headquarters include all e-mail, computer file transmission and interactive Internet services, such as high-speed access to the World Wide Web. Facsimile and video-conferencing links are also being tested and will be made operational in 1999. The Government of Kenya agreed in May 1998 to join UNEP in negotiations on the issue of expanding Mercure services to include voice telephone and other access to the Mercure system by all United Nations agencies in Nairobi. These negotiations will continue in 1999, when it is anticipated agreement will be reached between the parties. The incompatibility question did exist when the United Nations was conceiving the "United Nations backbone system" and when Mercure was to be set up with a European proprietary system (DAMA). Under this system, the satellite telecommunications link would be activated only upon demand by earth stations and could be a barrier for telecommunications, which require a permanent communication link such as telephone services. The Information Technology Services Division of the United Nations Secretariat and UNEP proposed that ITU should conduct a study, during the fourth quarter of 1997, to examine the costs, benefits and application efficiencies of Mercure related to UNEP activities. ITU was, however, unable to do so at that time. In March 1998, supplementary discussions on the compatibility of the United Nations global telecommunications system and Mercure were held between the United Nations and UNEP. That meeting concluded that it was no longer necessary to conduct an independent study at a cost of approximately $100,000, since compatibility for data traffic had already been achieved. Also, expertise sufficient to achieve compatibility for remaining services, such as voice, were available with Information Technology Services Division and at UNEP. An internal cost benefit study of Mercure operations was made available to the Governing Council at its twentieth session in line with the recommendations of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
In considering its coordinating responsibilities, UNEP should indicate to its stakeholders the need to consider harmonizing the organization's mandates, resources and capacities (para. 150).	The Nairobi Declaration was presented to the Commission on Sustainable Development. At its fifth session, the Commission recognized the role of UNEP and its Governing Council as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment. The focus of UNEP is on the integrative concept of sustainable development. Consequently, UNEP provides the environmental perspective in the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on sustainable development. Other organizations provide the economic and social dimensions. The Governing Council in its decision 19/9B of 7 February 1997 welcomed efforts by UNEP to develop the system-wide strategy and requested the Executive Director to undertake further development through the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group following the conclusion of the special session of the General Assembly and to finalize the strategy by the twentieth session of the Governing Council. UNEP will continue to bring discipline to those relationships through the development of specific memoranda of understanding — for example, with UNICEF and WTO. UNEP will also continue to forge strategic alliances with organizations through *inter alia* its Environmental Citizenship Programme and through its Industry and Environment Centre. The report of the Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements, chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP, was submitted to the Secretary-General for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (see A/53/463). The report has important recommendations with regard to the responsibilities and coordinating role of UNEP. That report is still under consideration by the General Assembly.
Clear guidelines on disbursements for consultants and advisers and on the establishment of posts should be developed (para. 151).	UNEP will continue to adopt a human resources management strategy that attracts the best talent, which will mean a mix of both internal and external resources. The utilization of consultants will be carried out in accordance with the instructions recently issued by the United Nations Secretariat.
Compliance with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors is necessary and should be given the priority it deserves (para. 152).	UNEP has been successful in the implementation of the recommendations by the Board of Auditors for the biennium 1994–1995. A separate document on the status of implementation of those recommendations was submitted to the Governing Council at its twentieth session. A status report as at 31 October 1998 has been sent to the Board of Auditors.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The work of the appointment and promotion machinery and its membership should be revisited. Two committees, one for Professional staff and the other for General Service staff, would be a step in the direction of reducing the cumbersome process (para. 153).	UNEP continues to adhere to United Nations procedures. In addition to two promotion bodies mentioned previously, UNEP has an Appointment and Promotion Committee dealing with Professional level posts funded from the United Nations regular budget. New membership for the Appointment and Promotion Board (for Professional staff members with appointments limited to UNEP), the Appointment and Promotion Panel (for General Service staff members in the United Nations Office at Nairobi), UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the local Appointment and Promotion Committee (for Professional posts up to the P-4 level, funded by the United Nations regular budget) was established effective 1 October 1998. In addition, the Appointment and Promotion Board and the Appointment and Promotion Panel have started to perform the new mandate of reviewing special post allowance and superannuation cases, as approved in May 1998.
The consultative process between staff and senior management should be established on a sound basis, with a view to ensuring a spirit of genuine cooperation and mutual respect (para. 154).	The Joint Advisory Committee has been established in accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/176/Rev.2 of April 1991 and staff rule 108.2 to discuss personnel policies and general questions concerning staff welfare. The Staff Association will continue to have meetings with the Executive Director quarterly and with the Deputy Executive Director once a month. Also, the Chief of the United Nations Office at Nairobi meets with the Staff Association on a regular basis.
A determined effort should be made to put the United Nations Office at Nairobi on the right track. This should include appropriate delegation of authority, enhancement of the capacity of the staff through training and the provision of a stable resource base to ensure the continuous presence of an institutional critical mass. A first step in that direction would be for Headquarters to provide urgent assistance by assigning to Nairobi for one month a senior administrator with proven experience in the establishment and functioning of United Nations common services outputs (para. 155).	The Executive Director/Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi has delegated to the Administration of the United Nations Office at Nairobi all administrative responsibilities in support of UNEP effective 1 July 1998. Existing operating procedures and reporting lines and interaction between substantive and administrative units have been reviewed. Budget section 27G, Administration, Nairobi, contains proposals for the biennium 2000–2001 to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi and to enable it to play fully its expanded role.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Board of Auditors (A/53/5/Add.6, chap. II)	
The Board recommended that reports on the value of non-expendable property purchased by the implementing agencies out of UNEP funds should be obtained and the value of such property should be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements (para. 15).	The value of non-expendable equipment purchased by implementing agencies out of UNEP funds will be reported in the 1998 accounts.
The Board recommended that the Administration review all unpaid pledges under the different funds and make appropriate provision in the accounts where the collection of the income is considered doubtful. The Administration should also consider recognizing pledges as income only when the funds are received (para. 18).	The Budget and Funds Management Service of the United Nations Office at Nairobi continuously reviews unpaid pledges for all funds. In respect of the Montreal Protocol, contribution tables are maintained separately for each year since the inception of the fund (1991), thus providing detailed information in respect of the age of unpaid pledges. Age analysis information for other UNEP trust funds is being developed. Writing off pledges, as well as considering pledges of some Governments to be doubtful, and making corresponding provisions in the accounts is the prerogative of the meetings of parties contributing jointly to those funds. However, in the management of allocations and commitments of all trust funds, it is the policy and practice of UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi to take into consideration cash balances only, supplemented very exceptionally by some amount of pledges considered to be fully reliable. Reflecting pledges as income is standard United Nations practice as an element of accrual accounting. The practice does not result in over-estimation of funds available, over-commitment or over-expenditure owing to the practices outlined above.
The Board recommended that the Administration continue efforts to ensure that executing agencies that are required to provide audit certificates in respect of monies released from the Environment Fund do so soon after the end of the financial period (para. 23).	The UNEP Manual on Project Formulation, Approval, Monitoring and Evaluation sets out the conditions relating to the submission of audit certificates. UNEP has put in place all the necessary measures to ensure timely submission of audited expenditure statements. UNEP will withhold future cash advances to those organizations which have not provided audit certificates and will not enter into new contractual arrangements with supporting organizations that have not provided necessary audit documents.
The Board recommended that the Administration establish a system of periodic review of accounts receivable to recover and/or adjust the items (para. 27).	Control and follow-up will be improved and an improved receivables ageing system is expected to be fully developed by 1999.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The Board recommended that as a matter of urgency the Administration review the cost-effectiveness and viability of the Mercure communications system, including its compatibility with the United Nations communications system (para. 42).	See above for the description of action taken in response to a similar recommendation from the Office of Internal Oversight Services.
The Board recommended that the Administration improve its management and control over projects by ensuring that objectives and outputs are clearly specified; terms of reference for consultants are specified; and quarterly expenditure and half-yearly progress reports are received promptly. The Board also reiterated its recommendation made in its report for 1990–1991 and again in 1994–1995 that action should be taken to obtain all prescribed reports so as to allow timely closure of completed projects (para. 50).	Project formulation has been streamlined with the approval in 1998 of the UNEP Manual on Project Formulation, Approval, Monitoring and Evaluation, and measures to ensure timely submission of financial statements and progress reports were put in place (UNEP withholds cash advances to organizations that have not submitted required reports). Action has also been taken to solicit from executing agencies all outstanding project reports and to effect timely closure of projects.
The Board recommended that the Administration review the project management report sheet and include the specific outputs in it, in addition to ensuring that they are updated on an ongoing basis to serve as an effective project management instrument (para. 51).	The UNEP Manual on Project Formulation, Approval, Monitoring and Evaluation already provides tools (project progress report, terminal report and self-evaluation fact sheet) for collecting comprehensive information on the life of a project to meet evaluation and reporting requirements, including specific outputs. Fund management officers are following up the project development through the project management report sheet, where all the expected and received reports are listed. It is considered that these reports and filing system will adequately meet audit requirements, and UNEP does not see the need to include specific outputs in the project management report sheet.
The Board recommended that the Administration ensure that the procedures for taking action on the decision of the Property Survey Board are adhered to and that it monitor compliance by exception (para. 61).	The United Nations Office at Nairobi is implementing the recommendation.

United Nations Environment Programme
Proposed organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2000-2001